

What is claimed

1           1.    An imaging device configured to capture a frame of  
2 image data corresponding to a present field of view of said  
3 device in response to an image capture command, said device  
4 comprising:  
5           an imaging assembly; and  
6           a control circuit having an associated memory in  
7 communication with said imaging assembly, wherein said control  
8 circuit is configured to operate said device in at least  
9 "message only", "image only", and "two step message and image"  
10 modes of operation so that  
11           when said "message only" mode is selected, said  
12 control circuit captures a frame of image data into said  
13 memory, decodes decodable indicia represented in said frame,  
14 and stores into a designated message memory location of said  
15 memory a decoded-out message corresponding to said decodable  
16 indicia in response to an image capture command,  
17           when said "image only" mode is selected, said  
18 control circuit stores a frame of image data into a designated  
19 frame storage location of said memory without attempting to  
20 decode decodable indicia represented in said frame in response  
21 to receipt of an image capture command, and  
22           when said "two step message and image" mode is

23 selected, said control circuit captures a first frame of image  
24 data, generates a decoded-out message from said first captured  
25 frame of image data in response to receipt of a first image  
26 capture command, stores a second frame of image data into a  
27 designated frame storage memory location in response to  
28 receipt of a second image capture command, and associates said  
29 decoded-out message with said second frame of image data  
30 stored in said designated frame storage memory location.

1 2. The imaging device of claim 1, wherein said control  
2 circuit is adapted to receive said second image capture  
3 command of said "two step message and image" mode subsequent  
4 to receiving said first image capture command of said "two  
5 step message and image" mode.

1 3. The imaging device of claim 1, wherein said device  
2 includes a trigger for actuation of said image capture  
3 command.

1 4. The imaging device of claim 1, wherein said control  
2 circuit when operating in said "two step message and image"  
3 mode associates said decoded-out message with said frame of  
4 image data stored in said designated frame storage memory

1 location by converting said decoded-out message into an image  
2 representation of said decoded-out message and stitching said  
3 image representation of said decoded-out message into said  
4 frame of image data stored in said designated frame storage  
5 memory location.

1 5. The imaging device of claim 1, wherein said control  
2 circuit when operating in said "two step message and image"  
3 mode associates said decoded-out message with said frame of  
4 image data stored in said designated frame storage memory  
5 location by storing said decoded-out message in an allocated  
6 open byte of an image file representing said frame of image  
7 data stored in said designated frame storage memory location.

1 6. The imaging device of claim 1, wherein said control  
2 circuit when operating in said "two step message and image"  
3 mode associates said decoded-out message with said frame of  
4 image data stored in said designated frame storage memory  
5 location by converting said decoded-out message into an image  
6 representation of said decoded-out message and stitching said  
7 image representation of said decoded-out message into said  
8 frame of image data stored in said designated frame storage  
9 memory location, and by storing said decoded-out message in

10 an allocated open byte of an image file representing said  
11 frame of image data stored in said designated frame storage  
12 memory location.

1 7. The imaging device of claim 1, wherein said  
2 designated frame storage memory location referred to with  
3 reference to said "two step message and image" mode is a  
4 memory location characterized in that said designated frame  
5 storage memory location is not a decode buffer memory  
6 location.

1 8. The imaging device of claim 1, wherein said  
2 designated frame storage memory location referred to with  
3 reference to said "two step message and image" mode is a  
4 memory location characterized in that said designated frame  
5 storage memory location comprises a designation flag  
6 indicating that the memory location includes a frame that is  
7 to be subjected to further processing in addition to decoding  
8 processing.

1 9. The imaging device of claim 1, wherein said device  
2 further is operable in a "message and image mode characterized  
3 such that when said "message and image mode" is selected, said

4 device captures a frame of image data into said memory in  
5 response to receipt of an image capture command, decodes  
6 decodable indicia represented in said frame to generate a  
7 decoded-out message, stored said frame of image data into a  
8 designated frame storage memory location and associated said  
9 decoded-out message with said frame stored in said designated  
10 frame storage memory location.

1 10. The imaging device, of claim 1, wherein said device  
2 is a digital camera configured to decode decodable indicia of  
3 image representations.